

RANGE EXTENSION OF *ONYCHOMYS TORRIDUS LONGICAUDUS*  
(RODENTIA: CRICETIDAE) IN NORTHWESTERN NEVADA

Mark D. Engstrom<sup>1</sup> and Eugene D. Fleharty<sup>1</sup>

ABSTRACT.—Two *Onychomys torridus longicaudus* Merriam were captured at a site 22 miles W Winnemucca, Humbolt Co., Nevada. This record extends the known range of *O. torridus* 165 km to the northeast.

The distribution of *Onychomys torridus* generally is restricted to the Lower Sonoran Life Zone of North America (Hall and Kelson, 1959, *The Mammals of North America*, Ronald Press, New York). However, there are a few records of *O. torridus* from the Upper Sonoran Life Zone along the eastern edge of the Sierra Nevada Mountains in northwestern and west-central Nevada (Hall, 1946, *Mammals of Nevada*, Univ. California Press, Berkeley, p. 495).

On 13 August 1964 a field party from the Museum of the High Plains, Fort Hays State University, under the direction of the second author, collected small mammals from a locale 22 miles W Winnemucca, Humbolt Co., in northwestern Nevada. The area was characterized by vegetation typical of the sandy, flat-floored valleys of the region. Dominant plant species, liberally spaced, included *Chrysothamnus* sp., *Atriplex* sp., and *Gutierrezia* sp., with local populations of *Artemisia tridentata*.

Subsequently, in conjunction with a forthcoming study on *Onychomys leucogaster*, examination of the specimens of that species housed in the Museum of the High Plains (MHP) revealed two specimens from the above site which actually pertain to the taxon *O. torridus longicaudus* Merriam. This record extends the known range of *O. torridus* 165 km to the northeast of the northernmost locality reported by Hall (1946: 495) which was a site 3 miles NNE Toulon,

3900 ft, in southern Pershing Co., Nevada.

Of the two specimens, one (MHP 3998) is an adult male (Age Class V, Van Cura and Hoffmeister, 1966, *J. Mamm.* 47:613-630), whereas the other (MHP 4446) is a subadult female molting into adult pelage (Age Class II, Van Cura and Hoffmeister 1966). Selected measurements (in millimeters unless otherwise noted) of the two (adult, subadult), with mean values for *O. t. longicaudus* reported by Hall (1946) in parentheses, are as follows: total length 139, 144 (138); length of tail 43, 44 (46.5); length of hind foot 20, 18 (19.3); weight (in grams) 21.8, 19.5 (22.6); greatest length of skull 25.0, 23.7 (24.9); breadth of braincase 11.4, 19.8 (11.3); length of nasals 9.5, 8.6 (9.3); shelf of bony palate 4.4, 4.2 (4.4); alveolar length of maxillary toothrow 3.7, 3.6 (3.8).

The remaining collection of small mammals from Humbolt County contained an unusual variety of heteromyid rodents, probably due to an admixture of Lower (*Dipodomys deserti* and *D. merriami*) and Upper Sonoran faunal elements. Species and numbers collected were: *D. deserti*, 6; *D. merriami*, 15; *D. microps*, 1; *D. ordii*, 7; *Microdipodops megacephalus*, 5; *Perognathus longimembris*, 1; and *P. parvus*, 2. Additionally, three specimens of *Ammospermophilus leucurus* were taken.

The authors thank Jerry R. Choate and Robert C. Dowler (Fort Hays State University) for critically reviewing this manuscript.

<sup>1</sup>Museum of the High Plains, Fort Hays State University, Hays, Kansas 67601.